

## Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, November 14, 1877, with transcript

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Can., November 14th, 77. (No envelope) My dear Al.,

The sight of your caligraphy after so long a non-appearance was a appearance was as a refreshing sunbeam. I hope you are acting for the best in remaining for a special purpose. Under the circumstances I should have hurried home. But I have no doubt that your presence in England will be beneficial to your professional interests. What are the prospects of cable-telephony? Everybody on this side is eager for this climax of success. I wish you would let us know what you have done that I may answer inquiries.

Canadian telephony has been retarded for want of a reliable call. The only magneto-instruments I have had proved a failure. I am using now an induction call which works satisfactorily- with one Le Clauche battery at each end. The sound however- the twang of a vibrating slip of metal- is not loud enough for general use. Some of our agents are making call-bells, in the hope of producing something that will command the market. Already we are apprised of three competitions, in London, Hamilton, and Toronto. Intending lessess are for the most part waiting for the promised magneto-call. And it is not yet on the horizon! The number of telephone sets leased up to this date is very small. Only one agent has made any remittance of cash. However I do not doubt a good measure of business ultimately, as there is no mistake about the 2 successful working of the telephone over moderate distances. Winter will prevent the erection of lines in this country so I do not expect much to be done until spring.

I am glad to hear of Mary Horne. I think Mabel will like her. You do not mention Sophie, Chess, Lewis, or any of this family. Your Uncle always asks and is much disappointed that we can tell him nothing of them. We do not gather from any of your letters that you have even seen them! I hope you have called a Mr. Ellis? Max Muller will probably be glad to

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open Oxford to you for lectures on V. S. if you can undertake them. Try to give us a letter once a week, a brief chronicle of the week's events. With best love to Mabel and yourself, I am,

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.